



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

***Raised Bill No. 407***

LCO No. 1957

\*01957\_\_\_\_\_GL\_\*

Referred to Committee on General Law

Introduced by:  
(GL)

***AN ACT PROHIBITING POLITICAL "ROBO" CALLS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) As used in sections 1 to 3,  
2       inclusive, of this act:

3       (1) "Automatic dialing-announcing device" means a device that  
4       selects and dials telephone numbers and, working alone or in  
5       conjunction with other equipment, disseminates a prerecorded or  
6       synthesized voice message to the telephone number called.

7       (2) "Caller" means a person, corporation, firm, partnership,  
8       association or legal or commercial entity that attempts to contact, or  
9       who contacts, a subscriber in this state by using a telephone or a  
10      telephone line.

11      (3) "Subscriber" means a person who subscribes to telephone service  
12      from a telephone company or any other persons living or residing with  
13      the subscribing person.

14      (4) "Message" means any telephone call, regardless of its content.

15       Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) No caller shall use or  
 16       connect to a telephone line an automatic dialing-announcing device for  
 17       the purpose of placing a call or playing a message that promotes the  
 18       success or defeat of any political campaign, candidate or party if the  
 19       subscriber's name and telephone number appears on the then current  
 20       quarterly "no sales solicitation calls" listing made available by the  
 21       Department of Consumer Protection pursuant to section 42-288a of the  
 22       general statutes, unless: (1) The subscriber knowingly or voluntarily  
 23       requested, consented to, permitted or authorized receipt of the  
 24       message; or (2) the message is immediately preceded by a live operator  
 25       who obtains the subscriber's consent before the message is delivered.

26       Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) (a) The Attorney General  
 27       may issue subpoenas or interrogatories requiring production of  
 28       evidence or testimony concerning a violation of section 2 of this act.  
 29       The Attorney General may apply to the Superior Court to enforce any  
 30       subpoena or interrogatories issued pursuant to this subsection.

31       (b) The Attorney General may file a civil action in Superior Court to  
 32       enforce the provisions of this section and to enjoin further violations of  
 33       section 2 of this act. The Attorney General may recover actual damages  
 34       or statutory damages of twenty-five thousand dollars, whichever is  
 35       greater, for each violation of section 2 of this act. For purposes of this  
 36       section, each telephone call received in violation of section 2 of this act  
 37       shall constitute a separate and distinct violation.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section

***Statement of Purpose:***

To ban the use of an automatic dialing-announcing device for the purpose of placing a telephone call or playing a message that promotes the success or defeat of a political campaign, candidate or party to a

telephone number appearing on the Department of Consumer Protection's "do not call" list.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*